

AN IMPORTANT ORDER

The Monterey to Reinforce Dewey's Squadron.

WORLD'S MOST FORMIDABLE MONITOR

She Can Herself Safely Defy All the Batteries at Manila.

GREAT NEWS LOOKED FOR.

Events of the Highest Importance

May Occur at Any Moment—Fine

Record of the Oregon—Buffalo to

Be Overhauled at Newport News.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—The news

event of the day at the Navy Department

was the dispatch of an order to the Monterey

to proceed to Manila, to reinforce

Admiral Dewey's squadron.

The Monterey is a tower of strength

in herself, and her addition to Admiral

Dewey's force, together with the dispatch

of thousands of troops to Manila, is ample

evidence that the administration has

assumed a half-hearted attitude toward

the Philippine question, and is determined

to take no chance of dispossession until

such time as the United States itself has

arranged for the disposition of the islands.

The Monterey is probably the most formidable

monitor in the world, yet she combines

with the enormous offensive and

defensive qualities of the monitor type

a seaworthiness that is almost phenomenal.

The Monterey is described technically as a barbet- turret.

Low-freeboard monitor of 4,000 tons displacement.

She is 235 feet long, by 59 feet beam

and 15 feet 6 inches draft. She carries

in two turrets, surrounded by barbets,

two 12-inch and two 10-inch guns,

while on her superstructures between the

turrets are mounted six 6-pounders, four

10-pounders and two Gatlings.

PROOF AGAINST ALL MANILA.

The turrets are 71-2 inches thick, and

the surrounding barbets are 14 inches,

and 11-2 inches of steel, and against

this armor all the batteries in Manila

might thunder away without effecting

an entrance.

The Monterey's personnel is 19 officers

and 172 men, and once she is safely in

the entrance of Manila harbor nothing in

the Spanish navy would be likely to budge

her from her post. Her dispatch, therefore,

may have an important bearing upon

the plans of the Spanish Government,

to openly published, of sending reinforcements

to Manila.

The only doubt as to the feasibility of

sending the Monterey is her small coal

capacity. She has bunker-room for only

30 tons of coal, and though more might

be stored on her decks, it is doubtful

whether she could at the utmost carry

more than enough coal to take her to

Honolulu, the first of the way to the

Philippines.

It is probable that the Monterey will go

in convoy, and after exhausting the coal

that she will take on in Honolulu, she

must either be towed about 2,000 miles

on her trip, or perform the difficult operation

of coaling at sea.

GREAT NEWS EXPECTED.

The Navy Department gave out no news

to-day touching the movements of the

American and Spanish squadrons, in the

neighborhood of Cuba. It is plain to be

seen, however, that the officials are expect-

ing great events to occur at any moment.

What they most fear is the effect

that might be produced upon our

people by greatly exaggerated and mis-

leading reports from Spanish sources of

some great naval engagement in which

the Spaniards would claim the victory.

It is realized that the first news of an

engagement in the neighborhood of Cuba

or to the eastward may reach the United

States through the Spanish cables via

Madrid, and these are almost certain,

no matter what the result may be, to

make such a claim for victory for the

Spaniards as is even now put forth by

the battle of Manila bay. Obviously,

the only manner in which the truth could

be discovered would be through our own

official reports.

PRIDE IN THE OREGON.

The Navy Department is proud of the

record made by the Oregon, from an engineering

point of view. The reports to the

department from the ship show that

she does not need 5 cents worth of repairs

to her machinery, after her 12,000 miles

continuous run. The record is said never

to have been equalled since the building

of the first iron warship.

The Buffalo, which comes with the

Oregon from Brazil, is to be overhauled

at Newport News, furnished with armor,

even a good battery of 5-inch guns, and

other modern armament. This will take about

two months.

WITH SAMPSON AT SAN JUAN.

Cruise of the Associated Press Dis-

patch-Boat Dauntless.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.

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Press.)

ON BOARD THE ASSOCIATED

PRESS DISPATCH-BOAT DAUNTLESS,

KEY WEST, FLA., May 18.—The Daunt-

less was a member of Admiral Sampson's

fleet during the latter's cruise to inter-

cept the phantom Spanish squadron. The

Dauntless immediately on joining

the fleet, in the outer harbor at Key

West, was ordered by the Admiral to

take station with halting distance of the

New York, and to remain there. On the

first day of the cruise the Dauntless

towed a coal-barge from Key West to

the Indiana, to enable the battleship to

fill her bunkers on time; later, she car-

ried dispatches to Cape Hatteras, and

Thomson, and her distribution of news,

barrels of provisions, and other supplies,

and pinpoints made her very popular.

On one occasion she was able to fur-

nish baking-powder to a vessel which had

run short.

When the Dauntless was obliged to

separate temporarily from the fleet she

was provided with light signals and sail-

ing course, so that she readily overtook

the fleet and was never "held up" as

suspicious.

THE "CRABS" TROUBLESOME.

Early in the cruise the Terror and the

Indiana became troublesome because of

misshaps to their boilers. The monitors

were from the outset a drag upon the

progress of the fleet, and during most of

the trip to San Juan the New York towed

the Terror and the Iowa pulled the Am-

phitrite. The Porter often hitching on be-

hind the Terror. The officers of the

fleet had many unkind things to say

about the "crabs," as they called the

monitors.

On May 7th the Montgomery went into

Cape Hatteras to send dispatches to War-

ington, and next morning the Dauntless

entered the same port for a like purpose.

The Montgomery's call caused some stir,

as it was at Port-au-Prince, where it was

reported that the whole North Atlantic

squadron was about to enter Cape Hat-

tien and coal. Cape Hatteras's little pile

of slate coal, price \$25 per ton, would not

fill the bunkers of one warship. The

Hatteras Government is said to have or-

dered the general of the port to enforce

neutrality to the letter. The Hatteras

are almost unanimously in sympathy with

the United States against Spain.

Dauntless returned to the fleet on

May 9th, with dispatches from Washing-

ton. When the Dauntless reached the

fleet she was sent in again for further

news, and in order that President Sam-

son might not become excited, the Dauntless's

captain stated that the steamer had re-

turned for a bill of health. On this visit

the Dauntless obtained from the Ameri-

can Consul a circumstantial report that

a fleet of thirteen Spanish warships had

been heading for Porto Rico. In this re-

port the naval officers placed some cred-

ence, and the bombardment of San Juan

was planned in the hope that the Spanish

fleet was in the harbor.

The fleet moved slowly eastward on

May 10th and 11th, and in the afternoon

of the latter day the Dauntless was or-

dered to be ready to carry dispatches to

St. Thomas at 11 o'clock next morning.

THE BOMBARDMENT.

At daylight on May 12th the fleet bom-

barded San Juan, the seaport and met-

ropolis of Porto Rico. The Dauntless

lay six miles off Fort Morro, and viewed

the bombardment and the reply of the

forts, a description of which event has

already been cabled from St. Thomas

and Key West.

After the battle the Dauntless waited

for an hour for Admiral Sampson's dis-

patches to the Navy Department, and

immediately on receipt of them steamed

for St. Thomas. The Dauntless hoped

to reach Charlotte Amalie, the port of

the Danish Island of St. Thomas, before

dark, but darkness dropped down all of

a sudden, and the steamer, pushing on

to the town-lights, gave mortal offence

to stop at his destination before leaving

long time. There was no delay in filing

to the Associated Press at New York the

battle description prepared hours before.

The dispatches went in this order: As-

sociated Press bulletin, Admiral Samp-

son's bulletin to the Secretary of the

Navy, Associated Press complete story,

Admiral Sampson's cypher message.

On May 13th the cruiser Montgomery,

the auxiliary cruiser Yale, and the

French gunboat Riquet de Genoulis

came into port, and there was much sal-

uting by the warships and the Mont-

gomery. Before midnight of the 13th the

Dauntless, carrying a few precious New

York newspapers, set out to overtake the

fleet, then moving slowly back to Key

West.

THE SOLACE AND THE ST. LOUIS.

Early Sunday morning, May 16th, off

Puerto Plata, San Domingo, the Daunt-

less resumed her old station near the

New York. The fleet in the Dauntless's

absence being joined by the hospital-

ship Solace and the auxiliary cruiser

St. Louis. The St. Louis, towing the tug

Wampatuck, left for Santiago de Cuba

on the morning of the 15th, to cut the

cable that connects Spain and Cuba. The

Porter went to Puerto Plata to send dis-

patches, leaving the Iowa, Indiana, Am-

phitrite, Terror, Detroit, and Niagara.

The Terror had broken down, and was

being towed by the Niagara, and the

Iowa pulled the Amphitrite. The Mont-

gomery which went into Samana bay on

the afternoon of the 14th, had not re-

joined the fleet when the Dauntless, off

the west coast of Haiti, May 16th, pushed

westward, taking the most direct

course in arriving there May 15th.

ALLEGED NAVAL FIGHT OFF HAITI

No Confirmation—Officials at Wash-

ington Discredit Report.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—No confirma-

tion of the rumored engagement off Mole

St. Nicholas had been received at the

Navy Department up to a late hour to-

night, and naval officers are disinclined

to believe that the American fleet has

encountered the Spaniards.

It was expressly denied at the depart-

ment that information even giving an

intimation of a fight had been received,

and further than that, it was stated that

a meeting between the two fleets was

hardly to be looked for to-night. This

statement is significant, in that it indi-